

Asthma in public housing: Obstacles residents have to confront

BHA Residents

- Approximately 23,000 people live in Boston family public housing. The number increases once one figures in people who live in public housing but not on the lease. Residents of family public housing demographics are :
 - 90% live below the poverty line
 - 30% are school age children
 - 79% are single female head of household
 - 40% lack a high school diploma
- Approximately 10,000 are younger than 17 years old
- 75% are racial,ethnic and or linguistic minorities
- Have fled their country of origin for economic or political reason

Socio-economics barriers

- Unemployment
- Transition from welfare (TANF)
- No childcare
- Alienation from other communities
- No political powers or voting power
- Education level
- Lack of youth programs
- Crime

Physical barriers

- Poor living conditions- such as structural damage
- Poor maintenance
- Unavailability of craftspeople such as carpenters, plumbers, and electricians

Health Barriers

- More than one person ill in the family esp. the head of household
- No health insurance or free care
- No assigned health provider or health provider not an expert in asthma
- Emergency room use as general health visits
- Mental illness

Roach infestation





Poor repair
work
Continuing
leak



Newly installed leaking radiator

Leaking insulated pipes



Gas leak



Broken outlet poorly patch





Broken
Entry
Door

Dirty Common Hallway



Obstructed Common Hallway



Homeless Loitering



Dirty un-repair steps



Roaches in the entry way



Roxbury Community-

Bromley Heath, Mission main, Alice

Taylor, Whittier Street and Lenox Camden







Universities Shuttles

One out of four Wentworth Parking Lot



MBTA Lot



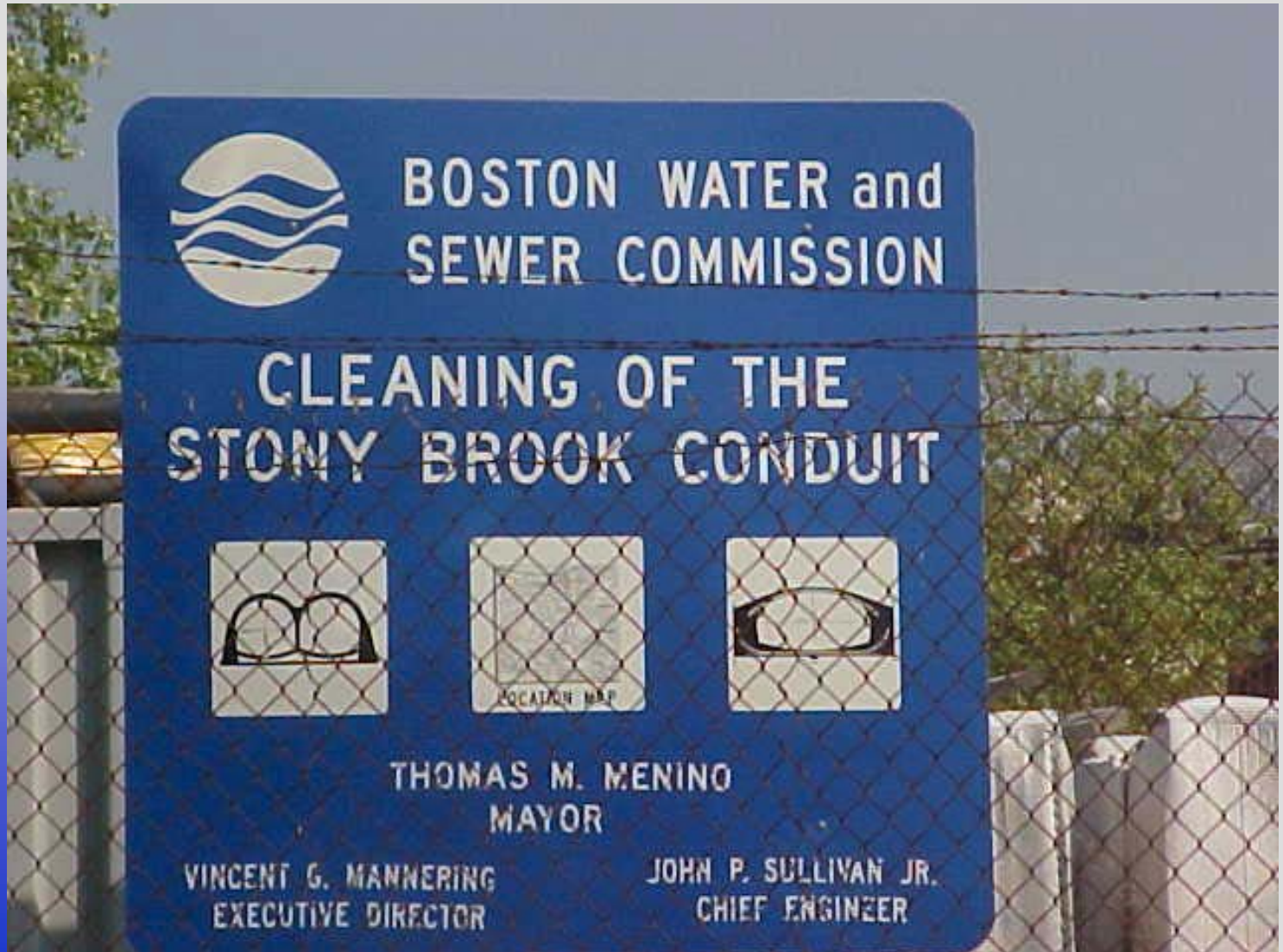


Abandoned half demolished building

Ongoing Construction



Sewer Conduit



Charlestown



Washington Beech



Main playground





Boiler attachment: Main Boiler Room Entrance

Built on a
landfill full of
lead barrels



Archdale



Locate in a low-income to moderate income neighborhood

Used by community to dump trash



Commuter and Amtrak Railroad



Water Front at Maverick





Abandon Factories

Gas Tanks Across Orient Heights



Transport Ship Near Chelsea Public Housing





Factory

Car Factory



Airport runway near
Orient Heights



Blue Line runs near
Maverick and
Orient Heights



Conclusions

Public housing residents experience:

- **Disproportionate exposures to environmental pollution.**
- **Higher rates of many illnesses.**
 - **Many households have more than one family member with illnesses.**
 - **Single heads of household are additionally burdened by caring for sick children, esp. if she/he is sick.**
- **Less access to health care.**

Recommendations

- **More funding to allow access to healthcare and asthma education**
- **High quality maintenance response through the public housing authorities**
- **Funding for national monitoring of outdoor air quality to include public housing near pollution sources**
- **National, state, and local enforcement of existing laws to limit air pollution**